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# The “Coming Home to Work” Initiative

The Coming Home to Work Initiative (CHTW) is a part of VBA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program’s early outreach efforts. Through this Initiative, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Non-Paid Work Experience Program (NPWE) is made available to VR&E eligible service members pending medical separation from active duty at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs), with a special emphasis on OEF/OIF service members. Participants work with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to obtain un-paid work experience in a Government facility. Although there is no guarantee of paid employment after separation, the job skills gained through work experiences has helped many veterans in their long term career goals.

## *Benefits of the “Coming Home to Work” Initiative:*

- o Medical appointments come first – work experience *does not interfere* with medical treatment or military commitments
- o Provides *valuable civilian job skills* to service members facing medical separation from the military and uncertain futures
- o Provides *seamless career transition assistance* to OEF and OIF service members at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and veterans after military separation
- o Establishes *Employment History* and expands veterans’ ability to hone skills developed under their vocational rehabilitation plan
- o Provides exposure to employment opportunities in selected vocational disciplines, and *participants qualify for certain Federal direct hire authorities*
- o Some veterans who gained work experience at the VA in Washington, DC while in a Medical Hold status at Walter Reed Army Medical Center were offered direct hires to fill salaried positions closer to home after military separation, based on their successful work performance as a CHTW participant



**For more information on the “Coming Home to Work” Initiative, please contact:**

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